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Congresswoman Matsui Announces Funding for Sacramento Flood Projects in Year-End ‘Megabus’ Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-Sacramento) voted to pass the nine-bill “megabus” appropriations package for fiscal year 2012. The megabus included the Energy and Water appropriations bill which funds the Army Corps of Engineers and, in turn, Sacramento’s flood projects. The House-passed version of the bill earlier this year included a 9.6 percent reduction in funding for Sacramento’s projects. However, Congresswoman Matsui continued to advocate on behalf of Sacramento’s flood protection to the Conference Committee, and the projects ultimately saw only a slight reduction from the President’s request for FY12.

“Each one of Sacramento’s projects is a critical component to improving our flood protection and ensuring our region’s public safety,” said Congresswoman Matsui. “I am very pleased to see Sacramento’s flood projects getting the funding they need and deserve in this ‘megabus’ bill. While many other Corps projects were zeroed out or substantially cut, I worked to ensure that Sacramento’s projects were able to move forward without delay.”

The final funding levels, as included in the conference agreement, are as follows:

American River Common Features – \$25,037,000

For work within the American River Watershed, including the American River Common Features General Re-evaluation Report, further design work in support of levee improvements in Natomas and levee improvements on the American River.

Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project – \$20,580,000

To continue construction on the auxiliary spillway, which will provide greater efficiency in managing flood storage in Folsom Reservoir.

South Sacramento Streams – \$4,900,000

To improve flood protection in the South Sacramento area, some of which still does not have 100 year protection.

Folsom Dam Raise – \$980,000

To raise Folsom Dam to help achieve 200-year-flood protection for the region.

Additionally, the conference agreement also includes a new ‘Reserve Fund’ that will allocate over \$59 million to the Corps for the purpose of funding flood protection projects. The Reserve Fund may allow Sacramento’s flood protection projects to receive even greater funding.

“I plan to continue working vigorously on securing federal support for Sacramento’s flood protection, and am hopeful that the new Army Corps Reserve Fund will provide additional funding opportunities for our priorities,” added Matsui.

Congresswoman Matsui has been a tireless advocate for federal support for Sacramento’s flood protection priorities since she was sworn into office in 2005. In the last year alone, she has been in constant contact with leaders of the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the State of California, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), and other agencies to ensure that construction continues on time and on budget, and has continued to argue Sacramento’s case to her colleagues on the Appropriations Committee through both conversations and formal letters.

The megabus bill is expected to pass the Senate and be sent to the President for his signature this afternoon.

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